the restoration of their original entitlements or storage of edible oils, Government have amended the Edible Oil, Seed and Oils Order, 1977 exempting these organisations from its purview;

(b) if so, whether the exemption has been granted in view of the large scale market intervention operations being undertaken by these bodies;

(c) whether the market price of edible oil had shown a rising tendency in March/April '94;

(d) whether in a bid to curb further increase in the prices, Government have withdrawn the exemption granted to various organisations under the Storage Control Order of 1977; and

(e) to what extent the decision to waive the limit of the stocks of edible oil has helped in checking the rise in price of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Government have recently amended the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils Storage (Control) Order, 1977, an dexempted certain organisations holding stocks on Government account for undertaking price support operations. In respect of other Cooperatives, the stock limits have been readjusted so as to regulate the stocks of oilseeds/oils held by them on regular basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The exemption to certain categories of organisations and readjusted limits in respect of other Cooperatives etc. under Edible Oil Storage (Amendment) Order are expected to have sobering effect on the prices of edible oils. Price variations are dependent on a number of factors like total demand and supply of edible oils in the country, production of edible oil seeds, import of palmolein and stocks of edible oilseeds held by various organisations etc. In view of this it is difficult to quantify the impact of a single factor on the prices of edible oils.

Empowering BIS to check selling of spurious goods

1759. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Standards (BIS) is being empowered to search and sezie any factory or shop suspected of manufacturing or selling spurious goods and if so, details thereof;

(b) whether the BIS has drawn up plans to minimise the marketing of inferior quality products; and

(c) if so, its sailent feature and in what manner it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALLUDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) For investigating cases pertaining to misuse of ISI Mark, the Inspecting Officers of the Bureau of Indian Standards are empowered under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 to search any place, premises or vehicle and to seize any article or thing.

BIS is operating a Certificaiton Marks Scheme under which licences are granted to manufacturers for using ISI Mark. Performance of the licensees of BIS and the quality of their products are monitored under this Scheme. All possible measures are taken to effectively enforce the Scheme.

Losses of Hindustan Vegetables Oil Corporation

1760. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss sustained by the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation (HVOC);

(b) the reasons for these losses;

(c) whether there is any proposal for its merger with some other Public Sector Undertakings and if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any other proposal to lease it to some private party in case there are no takers from any of the Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPLLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) HVOC has been incurring losses since 1991-92 as indicated below:

Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	4.56
1992-93	3.53
1993-94 (Provisional)	10.00

(b) After delicensing of Vanaspati industry, a number of new units nave come up which have been given sales tax exemption. This has rendered the older units unviable. Also the refining and packing of imported edible oils for the Public Distribution has declined steeply due to non import of crude edible oils and reduction in import of refined edible oils. These are the main reasons for the losses.

(c) and (d) A number of alternatives, including merger with other undertakings, are under consideration of the Government . No final decision has been taken.

Supply of coffee through PDS

1761. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to supply coffee through Public Distribution System;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Coffee Board has resolved to release 5,000 tonnes of coffee to some of the States for its distribution through the Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, what are the names of such States; and

(d) what will be the price at which coffee will be distributed through Public Distribution System ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) The Central Government has no proposal at present to supply coffee through the Public Distribution System (PDS). An Association of Coffee growers has offered to make available 2000 tonnes of pure coffee beans at a reasonable price to the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu for distribution through the PDS. The Association has suggested that the coffee may be drawn from the coffee pooled with the Coffee Board for immediate distribution but has not indicated the price at which they will supply the coffee. They have also not indicated the time by which they will replace the coffee to be issued by the Coffee Board. State Governments can add any item of mass consumption as per local needs and consumer preferences for distribution through the PDS.

Removing packaging restrictions on consumer consumption items

1762. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove packaging restriction on some items of consumer consumption; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue to consumer and the manufacturing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION